

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098402
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DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE/KSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098402

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 3360 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USCINCEUR,
USNMR SHAPE, CINCUSAFE, CSAF, BONN 29 APR 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO, GW

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE BASES AND RANGES

REF: LISBON 2712 (DTG 051750Z APR 77)

1. IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN ARP 29 EDITION OF "EXPRESSO"
FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS CARRIED UNDER TITLE OF "THE UNITED
STATES WILL UTILIZE THE BEJA BASE":

2. QTE PORTUGAL AND THE UNITED STATES ARE GOING TO NEGOTIATE
THE UTILIZATION OF BEJA AIR BASE BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
UNDER ARRANGEMENTS IDENTICAL TO THE ARRANGEMENT AT THE LAJES
BASE IN THE AZORES. WELL INFORMED CIRCLES CLOSE TO THE MILITARY
ASSUME THAT THE UNITED STATES SEEKS TO INSTALL IN BEJA AN
OPERATIONAL UNIT UNDER THE COMMAND OF COMIBERLANT.

3. BASE NO. ELEVEN WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE FRG UNDER
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AGREEMENTS FOR PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO.
HOWEVER, UTILIZATION BY THE GERMAN AIR FORCE HAS
BEEN, UNTIL NOW, VERY LIMITED. THE RELEVANT NEGOTIATIONS
WILL ASSUME AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE PORTUGUESE SIDE IN
PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO
COMPLY WITH PROMISES FOR AID LEADING TO MODERNIZATION
OF THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. UNQTE

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED BY
"EXPRESSO" WAS LEAKED BY HIGH LEVEL SOURCE IN THE PORTUGUESE
AIR FORCE. AIR FORCE WILL EXPECT SOME SORT OF QUID IF BEJA
FACILITIES ARE MADE AVAILABLE, AND LEAK IS DESIGNED
TO UNDERLINE THIS FACT. EMBASSY IS BEING QUERIED BY PRESS,
BUT IS MAKING NO COMMENT.
CARLUCCI

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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